

JAN-20-04 TUE 01:26 PM BOZICEVIC

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| <b>AMENDMENT AND<br/>RESPONSE</b><br><br>Address to:<br>Commissioner for Patents<br>P.O. Box 1450<br>Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 | Attorney Docket No.  | LIFE-040/1.FS-149  |
|  | Confirmation No.     | 8555   |
|  | First Named Inventor | OUYANG, TIANMEI  |
|  | Application Number   | 09/988,494   |
|  | Filing Date          | November 20, 2001  |
|  | Group Art Unit       | 1651   |
|  | Examiner Name        | DAVIS, RUTH A.   |
|  | Title:               | "STABILIZED TETRAZOLIUM PHENAZINE<br>REAGENT COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS<br>FOR USING THE SAME" |

OFFICIAL

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the final Office Action dated October 17, 2003, for which a three-month period for response was given making this response due on or before January 20, 2003 (January 17 and 18 being weekend days, and January 19 being a Federal holiday). As such, this response is timely filed.

In view of the remarks set forth below, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

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